

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE  
LOW BARRIER HOMELESS SHELTER TASK FORCE**

Held: August 29, 2022

A regular meeting of the Low Barrier Homeless Shelter Task Force was held on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m at Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 12, Cardinal Hall.

The following individuals were physically present at the meeting: Tom McGowan, Co-Chair; Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett, Co-Chair; Task Force Member, J. Jacob Sipe; Task Force Member, Karen Holly; Task Force Member, Rep. Justin Moed; Task Force Member, Sen. Jack Sandlin; Task Force Member, Sen. Fady Qaddoura; Task Force Member, Tim Brown, and members of staff from Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. The following individuals were present via Microsoft Teams: Task Force Member, Rick Alvis; Task Force Member Rep, Cynthia Ledbetter; Task Force Member, Dr. Chelsea Haring-Cozzi; Task Force Member Dr. Cory Terry.

Tom McGowan and Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett served as Chairs of the meeting and upon noting the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order. Michael McQuillen served as Secretary.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Sen. Qaddoura to approve the June 15, 2022 meeting minutes which was seconded by Rep. Justin Moed. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Introduction of Lauren Rodriguez, Esq., Director of Office of Public Health & Safety, City of Indianapolis for an overview of the Assessment & Intervention Center (“AIC”) by Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett.**

Ms. Rodriguez explained the working relationship between the AIC and Eskenazi Health. Restrictions on residents such as no-smoking were described. The AIC does not service unsheltered homeless clients. As of July, 82.4% of those serviced are experiencing homelessness. The average length of stays on the second-floor unit is 2.7 days.

A review of how prescribers work to supply medications needed by residents took place. She stated that people may leave whenever they desire as it is a voluntary stay. Occupancy was around 82% in July as compared to around 55% in January. A discussion regarding referrals coming from the Emergency Department and IMPD took place. Lyft rides are also available for those wanting to go to the AIC.

**III. Discussion of the Housing Hub Concept**

The possibility and challenges related to increasing the number of available beds took place. Partnerships and shared servicing was discussed including local churches, Wheeler Mission and Horizon House. Members discussed a recent trip to a similar Lafayette, Indiana facility and how that 7 day a week model including medical services would be a goal for Indianapolis.

#### **IV. Establish Project Schedule**

Deputy Mayor Bennett discussed an Indianapolis task force that was organized by the mayor to study supportive housing options for the city. The need to make recommendations to the General Assembly to address area homeless housing needs was noted.

#### **V. September Meeting / Preliminary Discussion of Report to Governor**

Chairman McGowan discussed a timeline starting in September to begin to pull together the budget and numbers of staffers that would be needed to properly run and staff an Indianapolis facility. Deputy Mayor Bennett stated that we have a Housing Trust fund which is local dollars and works with IHCD to unlock even more local dollars. He added that we've committed 10%. The recording fees that we generate are between a million and a million and a half per year in purely local revenue, and we dedicated \$2,000,000 passing trust funds to service funding this year. We'll keep doing that for as long as we have that that amount of funds.

IHCD Executive Director Jake Sipe said that IHCD has 400 plus supportive housing units specifically in development, but some of these units/developments target different types of populations, and some are transitioning out of youth foster care.

Member Tim Brown briefly discussed the all-encompassing efforts of Haven for Hope in San Antonio, Texas and the many services that they are able to provide those in need.

The group discussed that the good works of the AIC and other homeless groups, while doing a great job in assisting their populations, are not able to fill the gap of individuals still needing help, and that this conversation will continue with our members and stakeholders to find solutions.

#### **VI. Other Business**

Chairman McGowan asked for other business, however, no other business was brought forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.

Next Task Force Meeting Time and Location – September 29, 2022 at 10am at Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 12, Cardinal Hall.